

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1870

BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DR. A. ELMER BELT, Los Angeles, President

DR. V. A. ROSSITER, Santa Ana

DR. NORMAN F. SPRAGUE, Los Angeles

DR. BERTRAM P. BROWN, Sacramento

Executive Officer

DR. F. M. POTTENGER, SR., Los Angeles

DR. FRANK B. YOUNG, Long Beach

SAN FRANCISCO

State Office Building, McAllister and
Larkin Streets UNDERHILL 8700

SACRAMENTO

State Office Building, 10th and L Streets
Capital 2800

LOS ANGELES

State Office Building, 217 West First
Street MADISON 1271

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XIX, No. 25

July 13, 1940

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Public Health Aids Preparations For Defense

The national program for defense is of vital importance to public health. Already many activities that are closely associated with public health and defense are under way in California. The California State Department of Public Health, through its Industrial Hygiene Service, is active in safeguarding the health of workers in aircraft production plants, quicksilver mines, and other industries. During June, at the request of the management, the department's Industrial Hygiene Service made a complete study and evaluation of occupational health hazards and protective facilities in an aircraft plant that employed 8,000 workers. This investigation covered the following:

- 1) Physical examinations of workers exposed to solvents and cutting oils.
- 2) Quantitative atmospheric determinations of lead and zinc dust as well as fumes.
- 3) Paint thinner and organic solvent vapors.
- 4) Carbon monoxide.
- 5) Air velocity measurements in spray painting booths and cadmium plating tanks.

Complete reports, together with recommendations for the corrections of any conditions that might be detrimental to the health of employees in aircraft production will be made to company officials for their information and guidance.

Quicksilver is an important mineral in the manufacture of munitions, and it is of great importance that workers in quicksilver mines shall be adequately

protected against any occupational health hazards that may exist. In cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the State Industrial Accident Commission, the Industrial Hygiene Service of the California State Department of Public Health is making a complete survey of mercury poisoning in California quicksilver mines. In the 13 mines in which studies have been made, many employees have developed chronic systemic mercury poisoning, due to the inhalation of mercury dust and vapor. Quantitative atmospheric tests, made with precision instruments, indicate that the chief danger points are in underground working areas where free quicksilver is present. Another danger point is at the feed and firebox ends of kilns and retorts, in which the cinnabar ore is roasted to volatilize mercury. Another danger point is at the soot tables, where mercury, containing soot, is hoed by hand to recover the metal. The escape of highly poisonous mercury vapors and dust from these points to the breathing zone of workers can be prevented by the provision of proper enclosures and adequate artificial ventilation. Mine owners are cooperating in correcting conditions that tests have shown to be hazardous to the health of employees.

HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED

Edwin S. Bennett, M.D., has been appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles General Hospital, which is one of the largest hospitals in the United States.

KEEPING ALAMEDA COUNTY FREE OF MOSQUITOES

The above caption is the title of a most interesting and valuable publication issued by the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, of which Harold Farnsworth Gray is superintendent. The publication is in the nature of a report of accomplishments and an accounting of stewardship. It also provides valuable practical information relative to the control of both salt water and fresh water mosquitoes in the San Francisco bay region.

Residents of Alameda County today enjoy nearly complete freedom from annoyance by mosquitoes. Before the district was organized in 1930, mosquitoes constituted a public nuisance and a menace to the health and safety of the people of the county. Outstanding results have been accomplished in the control of salt marsh mosquitoes, which are particularly annoying.

In spite of the accomplishments of the district the tax rate covering its activities has never exceeded one cent since the first year of operation. The Mosquito Abatement District Act authorizes a district board of trustees to levy taxes up to fifteen cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation, but since the first year the rate has never exceeded one cent. Charles Gilman Hyde, Professor of Sanitary Engineering, University of California, and Professor William B. Herms, head of the Division of Entomology and Parasitology, University of California, have served on the board of trustees since the organization of the district in 1930.

The publication contains reports on the life history and habits of local mosquitoes, principle of mosquito abatement, control of migratory salt marsh species and protection against invaders, control of night-biting mosquitoes, together with data relative to the organization and operation of the district and the cost involved. Health officers may obtain copies of the publication by addressing the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, Court House, Oakland, California.

DOCTORS MORROW AND CLARK RESIGN

Dr. Howard Morrow of San Francisco, President of the California State Board of Public Health, and Dr. W. R. P. Clark of San Francisco, both of whom have been members of the board since 1931, on July 6 presented their resignations to Governor Olson. The term of office for each appointment will not expire until 1942.

HEALTH OFFICERS TO MEET IN SAN DIEGO

The Department of Health Officers of the League of California Cities will hold its annual meeting in San Diego September 16 to 19, 1940. Dr. George Parrish, city health officer of Los Angeles, and president of the department, has appointed a program committee that is working with the secretary of the League of California Cities in preparation of a program for the meeting. It is anticipated that there will be a large attendance.

Under a new section of the Health and Safety Code, which became effective September 19, 1939, "the actual and necessary expenses of the county health officer incurred while traveling to and from, and while attending the annual convention of his association or of any other meeting designated by the board of supervisors, shall be a county charge. The expense of attending the annual convention of his association shall not exceed the sum of \$50." It is hoped that the governing bodies of all cities and counties in the state may make early provision for the traveling expenses of their health officers, in order that they may attend this meeting in San Diego on September 16 to 19.

The officers of the Department of Health Officers of the League of California Cities for 1940 are: President, George Parrish, M.D., City Health Officer, Los Angeles; Vice President, John D. Fuller, M.D., County Health Officer, Santa Cruz; Vice President, R. L. Kaufman, M.D., City and County Health Officer, Riverside; Secretary-Treasurer, Walter M. Dickie, M.D., Berkeley; Representative of Department of Health Officers on the Executive Board, League of California Cities, Herbert F. True, M.D., City Health Officer, Sacramento.

DEATH COMES TO DR. VENER

Dr. Hyman Vener, epidemiologist in the Los Angeles City Health Department, died recently. Dr. Vener had not been in good health and for several years had known that his premature death was inevitable. Nevertheless, he continued his daily activities with increased vigor and determination. His work as an epidemiologist in the Los Angeles City Health Department was outstanding, and his loss is felt deeply by co-workers and by the many health officers throughout the state who have had contact with him.

At the last meeting of the Department of Health Officers, League of California Cities, held in Oakland in September of 1939, Dr. Vener was particularly active and provided attending health officers with valuable information relative to practical methods in the prevention of communicable diseases.

FEVER TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS

By AARON J. ROSANOFF, M.D.,
State Department of Institutions

In a large percentage of syphilis cases, more particularly those in which there has been failure of early diagnosis and prompt and thorough treatment, the infection involves the brain and other parts of the central nervous system. Such cases often lead eventually to incurable mental disease. Nearly 7 per cent of all admissions to the mental hospitals of California consist of cases of syphilitic brain disease—for the most part the disease known as paresis. In actual numbers between 400 and 500 such cases are admitted to the state hospitals annually.

The splendid work that is now being done on a rapidly expanding scale by our federal, state, county and municipal health departments along the lines of venereal disease control should soon yield demonstrable results in the form of reduction of our admission rates of cases of syphilitic insanity. There is, however, one preventive measure that has heretofore not been adequately provided for, namely, the fever treatment (by malaria inoculation) for those cases of syphilis in which there is evidence of involvement of the central nervous system and in which there is, therefore, a danger of the eventual development of paresis unless the fever treatment is instituted before the mental deterioration sets in, which is due to destruction of nervous tissues accompanying the progress of the syphilitic brain disease.

The Department of Institutions of the State of California announces that henceforth treatment by means of malarial inoculation will be available for all suitable cases in the following state hospitals: Agnews, Camarillo, Mendocino, Napa, Norwalk, Patton and Stockton.

Patients referred to any of these hospitals by any health officer, or, through a health officer, by a private physician, as requiring a malarial inoculation may receive such inoculation at the hospital. Thereupon, such patients may immediately return to their homes, or to private hospitals or sanitariums, there to remain under the care of their private physicians during the course of their fever. Patients who can not afford private care will be admitted to the state hospitals, for the fever period, upon their voluntary application. In many cases of syphilis timely fever treatment alone can prevent the eventual development of paresis.

PREVENTION OF LEAD POISONING

During June the Industrial Hygiene Service of the California State Department of Public Health made

studies of the lead poisoning hazard to workmen in the vicinity of lead melting pots in an ink manufacturing plant. The service also made quantitative determinations of petroleum distillate vapors emanating from varnish cooking pots in a news ink department, which shows that the health of employees working in the vicinity of the pots was not being endangered by the process.

Residents of Oakland, living in the vicinity of a smelting plant in which old storage batteries are burned to recover lead, complained of fumes. At the request of the health officer, stack gases were collected and analyzed, which showed that sulfur dioxide gas in lead fumes was being discharged from the furnace stack. Upon recommendation of the service, a water scrubbing system was installed, through which the furnace gases now pass before they escape into the atmosphere. This control device traps a large percentage of the sulfur dioxide which had previously created a neighborhood nuisance, and it also pays for itself by condensing and recovering much of the lead which was formerly lost as vapor.

DIESEL TRUCKS IN TUNNELS

The use of internal combustion engines has been prohibited in California mines and tunnels, due to the danger of workmen breathing harmful concentrations of exhaust gases, particularly carbon monoxide, from the engines. Because of the small percentage of carbon monoxide in Diesel engine exhaust gases, as compared with those from gasoline engines, and the favorable experiences of several eastern states in which Diesel trucks and locomotives have been used in tunnel work, the California Industrial Accident Commission recently granted temporary permission to contractors for the use of Diesel powered trucks in tunnel operations at the Central Valley project, near Redding, subject to revocation if ventilation requirements and the maintenance of safe working conditions were not satisfactory.

At the request of the commission, the Industrial Hygiene Service of the State Department of Public Health has made ventilation measurements, and quantitative atmospheric determinations of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and acrolein concentrations in the tunnels, while Diesel trucks were being operated in them. These studies indicate that the quantities of toxic and asphyxiating gases to which workmen are exposed can be kept well below safe limits by adequate forced ventilation of the tunnels, and careful adjustment of the air-fuel ratio of the engines.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending July 6, 1940

Chickenpox

169 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 6, San Leandro 2, Butte County 1, Richmond 11, Sanger 1, Eureka 1, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 17, Covina 1, Glendale 3, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 2, Los Angeles 42, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 2, Pomona 3, Redondo 2, San Marino 1, Lynwood 1, Belvedere 1, San Rafael 5, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Huntington Beach 2, Orange 1, Santa Ana 3, Laguna Beach 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 2, Chula Vista 5, National City 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 18, San Joaquin County 2, Daly City 1, Menlo Park 2, Palo Alto 1, Santa Rosa 1, Tulare County 3, Yolo County 5, Davis 1.

Diphtheria

18 cases: Oakland 2, Richmond 1, Los Angeles 1, Merced County 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 1, La Mesa 1, National City 1, San Diego 2, San Luis Obispo 3, Modesto 1, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1.

German Measles

11 cases: Alameda 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 3, Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, San Diego 1, Palo Alto 1, California 2.*

Influenza

18 cases: Los Angeles 3, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Manteca 1, Santa Clara County 4, Sonoma County 3.

Malaria

5 cases: San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, Modesto 1, Winters 2.

Measles

145 cases: Oakland 1, Calaveras County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 11, Sanger 1, Kings County 1, Compton 1, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 1, Pomona 7, San Marino 2, South Pasadena 12, South Gate 1, Madera 6, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 7, El Cajon 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 14, San Luis Obispo County 5, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 17, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara 27, San Jose 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 1, Tulare County 3, Dinuba 1, Yolo County 4, Winters 1, Marysville 1.

Mumps

140 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 4, Berkeley 1, Oakland 3, Fresno County 3, Coalinga 1, Fresno 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 15, Compton 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 19, Pomona 1, San Fernando 6, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 3, Brea 1, Fullerton 4, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 2, Tustin 1, Coronado 1, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin County 2, San Luis Obispo County 3, Paso Robles 5, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 2, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Maria 5, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 8, Redding 1, Sutter County 1, Woodland 1, California 3.*

Pneumonia (Lobar)

30 cases: Alameda 1, Chico 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 10, Pasadena 1, Brea 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 3, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1.

Scarlet Fever

65 cases: Oakland 2, Butte County 2, Sanger 1, Kern County 1, Kings County 1, Corcoran 3, Los Angeles County 4, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 6, Redondo 2, South Gate 5, Bell 1, Madera 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 2, La Habra 1, Riverside 3, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Watsonville 1, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 2, Dinuba 1, Tuolumne County 1, Sonoma 3, Santa Paula 1, Ojai 1, Yolo County 2.

Smallpox

No cases reported.

Typhoid Fever

4 cases: Kings County.

Whooping Cough

310 cases: Berkeley 4, Livermore 1, Oakland 5, San Leandro 8, Colusa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 29, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Compton 3, Culver City 1, Huntington Park 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 60, Pasadena 6, Pomona 2, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 2, San Rafael 1, Monterey County 1, Soledad 3, Orange County 4, Anaheim 3, Santa Ana 2, La Habra 2, Placentia 4, Riverside County 4, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 4, Colton 5, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 5, Escondido 10, San Diego 4, San Francisco 17, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton 11, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 4, San Luis Obispo 4, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 9, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 14, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz 1, Stanislaus County 10, Modesto 3, Dinuba 1.

centia 4, Riverside County 4, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 4, Colton 5, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 5, Escondido 10, San Diego 4, San Francisco 17, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton 11, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 4, San Luis Obispo 4, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 9, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 14, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz 1, Stanislaus County 10, Modesto 3, Dinuba 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, La Mesa 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

8 cases: Oakland 1, Riverside County 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Francisco 1, Sutter County 2, Yuba County 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

7 cases: Hermosa 1, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 2, Sonoma County 1.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

2 cases: Sonoma County 1, Ventura County 1.

Pellagra

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1.

Poliomyelitis

16 cases: Bishop 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 5, Pomona 1, Chowchilla 1, San Bernardino County 1, Needles 1, Shasta County 1, Porterville 1.

Tetanus

3 cases: Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 1, Santa Ana 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

8 cases: Tulare County 5, Dinuba 1, Exeter 1, Tulare 1.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Inyo County.

Trichinosis

One case: Los Angeles.

Typhus Fever

One case: Laguna Beach.

Food Poisoning

30 cases: Oakland 3, Imperial County 1, San Bernardino County 26.

Undulant Fever

4 cases: Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 1, King City 1, Sutter County 1.

Epilepsy

25 cases: Oakland 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 9, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 7, Sonoma County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

One case: Los Angeles County.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

MUSSEL QUARANTINE ORDERED

A quarantine of all mussels from the ocean shore of California extending from the southern boundary of Los Angeles County north to the California-Oregon boundary with the exception of the Bay of San Francisco, has been established.

All health officers and food inspectors are instructed to enforce the provisions of this quarantine and to prohibit the taking, sale, or offering for sale, of mussels gathered in the area specified above. This quarantine order shall be effective for the period of June 3, 1940 to September 30, 1940.